

## Laotse on Words (~6<sup>th</sup> century BC)



Existence is beyond the power of words  
To define: Terms may be used  
But are none of them absolute.  
In the beginning of heaven and earth  
there were no words,  
Words came out of the womb of matter;

And whether a man dispassionately  
Sees to the core of life  
Or passionately sees the surface,  
The core and the surface  
Are essentially the same,  
Words making them seem different  
Only to express appearance.  
If name be needed,  
wonder names them both:  
From wonder into wonder  
Existence opens.